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ERICP342USA

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending. Method claim 32 has been amended to depend upon claim 1. Claim 33 has been amended to conform to amended claim 32, removing features recited in claim 1.

Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants select without traverse Invention I, claims 1-31, drawn to a solid material. As noted above, claim 32 has been amended to depend upon claim 1, making claims 32-39 eligible for rejoinder as described in MPEP 821.04.

Election of Species Requirements

In response to the election of species requirement in paragraph 4 of the Action, Applicants elect without traverse a solid material having aluminum as a reducing agent, iron oxide powder as a metallic compound powder, sand as a heat retaining material, and sodium silicate as a binder. All of the pending device claims (claims 1-31) read on the elected species. Of these, claims 1-14 and 16-30 are generic to all of the species of the requirement.

In response to the election of species requirement in paragraph 5 of the Action, Applicants elect without traverse an insulating material being present, the insulating material being a ceramic material that includes a ceramic blanket, and the insulating material covering at least part of an outer surface of a solid material, while leaving a side of the outer surface of the solid material uncovered. All of the pending device claims (claims 1-31) read on the elected species. Of these, claims 1-8, 14, and 15 are generic to all of the species of the requirement.

In response to the election of species requirement in paragraph 6 of the Action, Applicants elect without traverse an exothermic ignition material being present, with the exothermic ignition material including a powdered mixture of a reductant material and a metal oxide. All of the pending claims (claims 1-31) read on the elected species. Of

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these, claims 1-13, 15-17, and 26-31 are generic to all of the species of the requirement.

In response to the election of species requirement in paragraph 7 of the Action, Applicants elect without traverse the embodiment shown in Figs. 8-10 of the application, a device having a built-in exothermic ignition material in a protrusion or knob. Claims 1-17 and 22-31 read on the elected species. Of these, claims 1-8, 14, and 15 are believed to be generic to all of the species of the requirement.

Applicants' acquiescence to the election of species requirements should not be construed as agreement with the propriety of these requirements. The elections made herein should not be taken as any sort of admission by Applicants regarding the degree of distinctiveness of the elected or non-elected species.

Conclusion

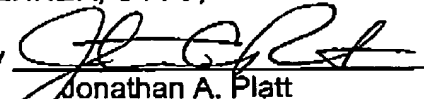
Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due with the filing of this paper. In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. ERICP342USA).

Respectfully submitted,

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